

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HONG K 00512 150619Z

21

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

RSC-01 /026 W

----- 032131

R 150215Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3496

UNCLAS HONG KONG 0512

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, HK

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS - MASS RAIL TRANSIT SCHEME

REF: HK 8875, 9375, A-238, A1072.

JANPANESE CONSORTIUM PROPOSED TO SCRAP AN UNDERGROUND STATION AT KEY INTERSECTION AND INTRODUCE "CUT-AND-COVER" METHOD INSTEAD OF BORING UNDERGROUND, TO OMIT AIR-CONDITIONING AND TO USE SHORTER ROLLING STOCK. PROPOSAL WOULD MEAN DRASTICALLY LOWER STANDARDS. BECAUSE OF STEEP RISE OF MATERIAL AND LABOR COSTS, JAPANESE MAINTAINED PROJECT WILL NOW COST 40PERCENT MORE THAN ENVISAGED WHEN LETTER OF INTEREST WAS SIGNED. HKG REJECTED MODIFIED PLAN AND NEGOTIATIONS WERE SUSPENDED. NEVERTHELESS, BOTH PARTIES AGREED TO STUDY SITUATION WITH VIEW TOWARD FURTHER DISCUSSION.

COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT POSSIBILITY OF THIS PROJECT FALLING THROUGH IS GREAT. MANY HK LEADERS STATE THAT JAPANESE CANNOT DELIVER FOR HK\$5 BILLION CEILING THAT HKG IS MAINTAINING AND THAT A FRESH START ON THE WHOLE MASS TRANSIT ISSUE IS PREFERABLE TO RAISING THE CEILING.  
CROSS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975HONGK00512  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750015-0055  
**From:** HONG KONG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 48  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION COME  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 1  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 HK 8875, 75 9375, 75 A-238, 75 A1072  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <17 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MAJOR PROJECTS - MASS RAIL TRANSIT SCHEME  
**TAGS:** BEXP, HK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006